

inspires respect and loyalty from those who know her. And it was a good day in both their lives when they met at the library at Yale Law School. [Laughter]

Hillary's commitment to public service continued when she left this house. Listen, New York politics is a serious business—[laughter]—it's rough business. It takes an extraordinary person to campaign and win the United States Senate. She has proven herself more equal to the challenge, and she takes an interesting spot on American history today, for she is the only sitting Senator whose portrait hangs in the White House.

The paintings of the Clintons are the work of a fine American artist, Simmie Knox. Mr. Knox has rendered portraits of a Supreme Court Justice, a Cabinet minister, a mayor, and Members of Congress. And today we thank him for putting his skilled hand to the portraits that are about to be unveiled.

More than 40 years have passed since a boy of 16 came here to the White House with a group from the American Legion Boys Nation. On that day in the summer of 1963, Bill Clinton of Arkansas looked into the face of John F. Kennedy and left the Rose Garden feeling very proud that he had shaken the hand of a President. Today he can be even prouder of decades of service and effort and perseverance that brought him back to this place as the 42d President of the United States.

My congratulations to you both, and now will you join me on the stage for the presentation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Henry A. Dudley, Jr., chairman, White House Historical Association.

## Exchange With Reporters in Liberty, Missouri June 14, 2004

### *Medicare Drug Discount Card*

*Q.* How much did she save, Mr. President?

*The President.* Seventeen dollars. Her total cost is \$1.90.

*Q.* Not bad.

*The President.* So, like, if you add \$17 to \$1.90—[laughter]—here, Wanda, come over here. Give us your card.

One of the reasons we're here is we want people to understand the benefits of this card so more people use it.

*Wanda Blackmore.* This is my Medicare card.

*The President.* Yes, brand new. When did you get it?

*Ms. Blackmore.* I got this Saturday, and this is the second time I've used it.

*The President.* What's that going to do for you?

*Ms. Blackmore.* Keep my blood flowing.

*The President.* Keep your blood flowing. [Laughter]

NOTE: The exchange began at 3:11 p.m. at the Hy-Vee pharmacy. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks in a Discussion at the Liberty Community Center in Liberty  
June 14, 2004

*The President.* Thank you very much. Thanks for coming. We're glad to be in Liberty, aren't we? What a great town. Gosh, I want to thank the citizens for lining the street and waving to us coming in. [Laughter] I really appreciate it. Mr. Mayor—I know the mayor is here, Steve Hawkins. Mayor, thank you for—please thank the citizens of your city for being so kind, and it's really great to be here.

You're wondering why I'm on stage with some local citizens, important Washington, DC-type personalities—[laughter]—it's because we're going to talk about something really important that's happening in the country, and that is, we're going to talk about how to make sure our seniors get the best health care possible. That's what we're here to talk about. We've got some—this is going to be a very interesting discussion, one that I think you'll find to be educational, one that will help illuminate what's going on with a good piece of law in a practical way.

Before I do, I want to say something about my friend Sam Graves. Congressman Graves, thank you for coming. I asked him what he did to lose weight. [Laughter] He looks a lot prettier now than he used to. [Laughter] He said he quit eating sugar. But he is a fine Congressman. I really enjoy working with him. And I appreciate you being here, Sam. He's from a farming background. He's plenty capable and plenty smart. And I'm saying that because I want him to feel good as he gets back in the limousine. I'm giving him a ride on Air Force One back to Washington. [Laughter]

I'm with my friend Mark McClellan. I'll tell you about him in a minute.

Today when I landed, I met a lady named Ruth Blake. Where are you, Ruth? Yes, there she is. Ruth, thank you for coming. You're probably wondering why I'm introducing Ruth. The reason why is she's

from Shepherd's Center, which is a—[applause]—sounds like you brought your family. [Laughter] Ruth is a volunteer. She manages the adult education program that educates and empowers seniors. And the reason I bring that up is I just want our fellow citizens here in Liberty, Missouri, to understand that I know the great strength of the country is the heart and souls of the American people, that our greatest strength—[applause].

I see some of our military folks here. That's a strength of America. We'll keep the military strong. And we've got to keep the military strong to make the world—to help the world be a peaceful world. It's incumbent upon America to lead and work with other nations to spread freedom. Free countries are peaceful countries. And I believe we have an obligation to work toward freedom and peace, not only for our own security, not only because we must never forget the lessons of September the 11th but because, in this Nation, we understand that freedom is not America's gift to the world. Freedom is the Almighty God's gift to each man and woman in this world.

Another strength of America is the fact that we're a wealthy nation, and that's important. It's important that we stay that way, so people can find work; they can put food on the table; people can do their duty as a mom or a dad.

But our true strength is the fact that we've got loving citizens who are willing to volunteer to help change America, one heart and one soul at a time. My call to our fellow citizens is to join the army of compassion, which exists in every neighborhood in every city of our great land. Make a difference by teaching a child or an adult to read, by providing food to the hungry, shelter to the homeless, and together, we can make sure the great promise and hope